

GENERAL NOTES.

Notes on the Egg of the Marbled Murrelet. — While collecting this season off the Alaskan coast in the Prince of Wales Archipelago, it was my good fortune to take an egg of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), the first I believe that is known to science. My headquarters at that time were at the Indian village of Howkan, on Long Island, near the open end of Dixon's Entrance. The birds had been very abundant all winter and by May had taken on their rusty summer dress. Females taken at that time plainly indicated that they were about to nest, the ovaries containing eggs nearly formed. A careful watch failed to reveal any nesting sites and on inquiring of the Indians about it, they told me that they had always supposed the bird to breed high up on the mountains in hollow trees; one old fellow declared he had found the young in such places. As I had previously noticed the birds flying about high overhead at dusk I resolved to look into the matter, and spent many hours searching for them in the woods, but without success.

One day, the 23d of May, an Indian boy came to the cabin and wanted to borrow my 'scatter gun' to shoot ducks. I gave him the gun and some shells, I also asked him to bring me back some 'divers' if he could. He returned in the afternoon with four Marbled Murrelets and said, in Chinook, that "he thought one had an egg in it," and suiting the action to the word, squeezed the bird's abdomen, and before I could prevent it I heard the egg break between his fingers. On opening the bird I found the remains of a large clear green egg spotted with black and brown, which I patched up the best I could and sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

By a promise of a reward for eggs I soon had all the Indian boys of the place after them. Many of the birds they got had incomplete eggs in them and others had already laid, but I never secured another perfect specimen.

The birds were in the channels the entire summer, and on August 5 I noticed the first young in the immature white plumage, and by the middle of October the old birds had also assumed the winter dress. — GEO. G. CANTWELL, Juneau, Alaska.

[The above mentioned egg, kindly sent to the National Museum by Mr. Cantwell, measures about 2.48 inches (length) and 1.38 (width). In shape it is elongate-ovate. The color is a greenish yellow, with brownish violet and dark brown spots, the latter being larger at the base. — W. L. RALPH]

Gull Dick. — The American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*), known as 'Gull Dick' (see Auk, Vol. IX, p. 227; Vol. X, p. 76;